

## Won't a Traffic Signal stop the accidents at an intersection?

Traffic signals can reduced certain types of crashes at an intersection. However, signals can also increase certain types of crashes as well. At intersections where high levels of right angle accidents have created serious problems for the motorist, signals will typically reduce this type of accident. However, due to the starting and stopping nature of traffic signals, the number of rear end accidents can and typically will increase. This is why traffic signals, especially at high speed locations, must be designed in such a matter as to reduce chances of vehicles stopping during certain portions of the change intervals. A system of traffic signal warrants is used in order to justify the installation of traffic signals. When the warrants are not met and signals are installed, there is a good chance that accidents will increase beyond the point of which the traffic signal provides a benefit to the motorist.